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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I thought the purpose of the anti-trust laws was to protect U.S. consumers from harmful practices by businesses. I also thought the beauty of our system was that companies would battle head-to-head for markets based on the quality and price of their products. The consumer would then benefit from these "fair fights".

It seems to me that it is not in accord with this spirit that one company can gain an advantage over another, who is beating it in the marketplace by offering superior products and prices, by unleashing a barrage of lawyers. It also seems to me that is what has happend in the Microsoft case. Microsoft should not have been punished for being innovative and offering good products at good prices. But that is what happened. To end the matter, the company agreed to terms which should be acceptable to all but their competition. Surely, the competition would prefer to have the market to themselves, and will continue to press any advantage to harm Microsoft. The government should not be a party to such business antics.

For the record, own both Microsoft and AOL-TW stock...and more of the latter than the former. But fair is fair, and I think the ultimate aim of our elected officials should be that they are fair to all citizens.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

John Zink